

# OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER

MELISSA CONYEARS-ERVIN • TREASURER • CITY OF CHICAGO

November 19, 2019

Mr. Gregory Pratt  
Chicago Tribune  
[gpratt@chicagotribune.com](mailto:gpratt@chicagotribune.com)

Re: FOIA Requests of November 5, 2019 and November 18, 2019

Dear Mr. Pratt:

On behalf of the Office of the City Treasurer, I am responding to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests dated November 5, 2019 and November 18, 2019, for which this Office requested an extension on November 13, 2019 and additional time to process your request and November 18, 2019, respectively, which you granted on November 13, 2019 and November 18, 2019, respectively. In your request, you stated that you were seeking the following documents from the Office of the City Treasurer of the City of Chicago: 1) any and all contracts or agreements between the Treasurer's office and any person providing the office/Melissa Conyears-Ervin security; 2) any contracts or agreements between the Treasurer's office and any person providing the office/Melissa Conyears-Ervin security; 3) any and all records showing any payments to any firms or individuals providing security; 4) any and all invoices from any firms or individuals for security to the Treasurer/Treasurer's office; and (5) documents and/or communications that provide some context for the security detail change.

Enclosed please find copies of a contract for security services for the City Treasurer (some information has been redacted), invoices for payment for services, records of payments for said service, a communication from Treasurer Conyears-Ervin regarding the security detail change dated August 22, 2019. Please note that the information that has been redacted is deemed to be "private information" as defined in 5 ILCS 140/2 (c-5) of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act and is permitted under 5 ILCS 140/7(1) (c) which exempts from disclosure personal information contained in public records if disclosing that information would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

You have a right to have the denial of your request reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You can file your Request for Review with the PAC by writing to: Public Access Counselor, Office of the Attorney General, 500 South 2nd Street, Springfield, IL 62706, Fax: 217-782-1396, and E-mail: [publicaccess@atg.state.il.us](mailto:publicaccess@atg.state.il.us). You also have the right to seek judicial review of your denial by filing a lawsuit in the State Circuit court, 5 ILCS 140/11.

# OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER

MELISSA CONYEARS-ERVIN • TREASURER • CITY OF CHICAGO

If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC, you must do so within 60 calendar days of the date of this denial, 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this denial letter when filing a Request for Review with the PAC.

Very truly yours,



Tiffany R. Harper  
First Deputy Treasurer & Chief of Staff

Enclosure

# INVOICE

Date: September 6, 2019  
INVOICE For Security Detail

To City Treasurer of Chicago  
City Treasurer Office  
121 N Lasalle St  
Chicago IL 60602  
312-744-[REDACTED]

D'Shaun Bolden Security Detail  
Invoice

Name	Job	Payment Terms	Due Date
D'Shaun Bolden	Security For Treasurer	Due on receipt	September 16, 2019

Qty	Description	Unit Price	Line Total
	Security Service for City Treasurer Melissa Conyears Ervin Beginning August 19, 2019	\$35 Hr	
	August 19-25, 2019		
	August 26- September 1		
	September 1- September 6		

Subtotal	85 hrs
Sales Tax	
Total	\$2975

Make all checks payable to D'Shaun Bolden

D'Shaun Bolden [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

**CITY OF CHICAGO**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE**

121 NORTH LASALLE STREET - SUITE 700 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS - 60602

**CITY OF CHICAGO REMITTANCE ADVICE**

VENDOR [REDACTED]

Page 1 of 1

WARRANT NO. 42819240

DATE	INVOICE NO.	DESCRIPTION	VOUCHER NO	AMOUNT
09/06/19	91619	Security Services	PV28192800067	\$2,975.00

**RECEIVED**

SEP 13 2019

OFFICE OF THE  
CITY TREASURER

TOTAL \*\*\*\*\*\$2,975.00

VERIFY: THIS CHECK IS PRINTED IN BLACK INK WITH A LIGHT GREEN VOID POP-UP BACKGROUND. THE AMOUNT BOX OUTLINE IS MICROPRINT

DATE: 09/13/19

TO THE TREASURER OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

SERIAL  
NUMBER

42819240

42819240

70-2322  
719

\*\*\*\*\*\$2,975.00

VENDOR [REDACTED]

TO THE ORDER OF:

D SHAUN BOLDEN

[REDACTED] IL [REDACTED]

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.  
Chicago, IL



MAYOR

ACTING CITY COMPTROLLER

THIS PAPER HAS A WATERMARK. HOLD TO LIGHT TO VIEW - HOLD AT AN ANGLE TO VIEW CITY OF CHICAGO SEAL ON BACK

42819240 0719232260 018232078



Lori E. Lightfoot  
Mayor

Department of Police • City of Chicago  
3510 South Michigan Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60653

Eddie T. Johnson  
Superintendent of Police

The Honorable Melissa Conyears-Ervin  
City Treasurer  
121 North La Salle  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Honorable Melissa Conyears-Ervin,

Due to a recent reassessment of threats against you and your office, that is routinely conducted by the Chicago Police Department, it has been determined that a Chicago Police security detail is no longer necessary. The detail will be reassigned effective 11:59 pm on Sunday, August 4th. Should there be additional threats against you or your office in the future, we will perform another threat assessment at that time.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you or your office.

Sincerely,

*Anthony J. Riccio*  
Anthony J. Riccio  
First Deputy Superintendent



OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER

MELISSA CONYEARS-ERVIN • TREASURER • CITY OF CHICAGO

August 2, 2019

Anthony J. Riccio, First Deputy Superintendent  
Department of Police, City of Chicago  
3510 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60653

Dear First Deputy Superintendent Riccio,

I am in receipt of your letter dated August 1, 2019 notifying me that the Chicago Police Department (the "CPD") conducted a reassessment of threats against me and my office and determined that my security detail is no longer necessary and will be reassigned effective 11:59pm on Sunday, August 4, 2019.

Based upon discussions with security professionals, and common standard security practices, the threat assessment is incomplete, as no one interviewed me about any real and/or perceived threats against me in my role as the duly-elected City Treasurer, nor took any additional actions to fully investigate threats against the City Treasurer's office as detailed below. Thus, I request that the decision to reassign my security detail be suspended.

No one performing the analysis spoke with me or any of the CPD officers currently assigned as the Office's security detail to complete the threat assessment. In fact, the only person from my staff who was briefly interviewed during the threat assessment process is my Executive Assistant, Gina Zuccaro, who does not travel with me to pension board meetings, community engagements, or other outside events and, therefore, cannot properly assess active threats against me and the City Treasurer's Office. Furthermore, it is common that a complete threat assessment would include, at a minimum, discussions with me, as the principal, and the Office's security detail to ascertain what has occurred since I took office on May 20, 2019 and information about any other threats that may arise in the future. Since this was not done, I do not believe the CPD has an accurate account of threats against me and City Treasurer's Office.

Additionally, it is my understanding that no one from the CPD interviewed my family, including caretakers of my daughter; my neighbors, nor the previous three (3) City Treasurers to form a complete, historic picture of threats against the City Treasurer's Office. Upon performing my own due diligence after receiving your letter, I am certain that there are critical details that you do not have including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) During my short time in office I have already faced and continue to face imminent threats to my life and safety due to my management of the City's funds and membership position on all four of the City's pension fund boards;
- (2) The three former City Treasurers confirmed that they were attacked, stalked, and/or harassed in their official capacities; and

(3) I live in the 11<sup>th</sup> district and there has been several shooting incidents near my home and one on my block within the past 12 months; furthermore, I have three (3) bullet holes in the front window of my home.

In conclusion, as a mother with a young, 3-year-old daughter who attends community events, meetings, and the like with me, I believe it is in the best interest of the integrity of the office and my personal safety, that you suspend this decision and perform a complete threat assessment. Please let me know if I can provide any additional details or information as you review my request.

Regards,



Melissa Conyears-Ervin  
City Treasurer



OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER

MELISSA CONYEARS-ERVIN • TREASURER • CITY OF CHICAGO

August 12, 2019

Maurice Classen  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot  
City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle Street  
[Maurice.Classen@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Maurice.Classen@cityofchicago.org)

*Re: Follow-Up re Security Threat Meeting*

Chief of Staff Classen:

Following-up on our meeting earlier today to discuss the results of the Treasurer's threat assessment with First Deputy Superintendent Anthony Riccio and Commander Leo Panepinto, I wanted to put some of my concerns in writing because I still do not believe that the threat assessment has been completed in a satisfactory manner. The threat assessment remains premature because the Treasurer has been in office for less than 90 days, and not enough time has passed to do an accurate assessment of threats against this new Treasurer's office. Additionally, the process was rushed and remains incomplete based on a myriad of details I learned during today's meeting. As such, you should refrain from making any decisions regarding the Treasurer's security until a thorough threat assessment and analysis can be completed.

First and foremost, the threat assessment, of which we have requested and not yet received a copy, was an elementary compilation of interview summaries and surface research that lacked analysis and in-depth review of the information that was collected. For instance, First Deputy Riccio's letter stated that the Chicago Police Department ("CPD" or the "Department") ". . . evaluated this information against the national threat level to public officials who carry out similar functions and programs, including a jurisdictional comparison to major cities such as Los Angeles, Boston, and Miami." However, my own quick research shows that these cities are not good comparisons to our City Treasurer's office because the treasurers in Los Angeles, Miami, and Boston are not elected officials and therefore are not in the public eye or subject to highly contested elections or run-offs like those that Treasurer Conyears-Ervin won earlier this year. The Department should take the time to analyze the Treasurer's office in cities where the Treasurer (1) is an elected official, (2) manages a large investment portfolio, and (3) is mandated by statute to engage the entire community and provide financial literacy, access to banking, education, and other economic development programs to find an appropriate comparison regarding security detail.

Second, First Deputy Riccio and Commander Panepinto admitted that CPD has yet to investigate any of the incidents detailed in the threat assessment. As you will recall, I specifically asked if anyone had investigated any of the incidents outlined in the threat assessment, and upon hearing that no investigations had been done, you directed First Deputy Riccio and Commander Panepinto to investigate these incidents. I agree with your direction and believe it is prudent for these investigations to occur

before any decisions regarding the Treasurer's security are made and so CPD has a complete, accurate understanding of credible threats against the Treasurer. A full investigation of these incidents is especially needed because First Deputy Riccio and Commander Panepinto confirmed that the Treasurer suffered a battery just last week when she was accosted by a strange woman one evening after leaving the office. This battery went unreported because neither the Treasurer nor anyone in her office or her security detail has ever been briefed about the process for reporting actual or perceived threats. Further, the Treasurer was never informed that it is her burden, and not that of her security detail, to file an official report as these incidents occur.

Moreover, at least one of the reported incidents needs to be investigated because it is an ongoing, unresolved threat that presents the potential for harm and violence. This threat should be fully vetted before the Treasurer attends any additional police pension fund meetings where she will be a deciding vote for this officer's disability benefits. Since the Treasurer is the only city-wide elected official who sits on all the pension funds boards, and because previous Treasurers confirmed that their work on the pension fund boards was a constant source of threats throughout their terms, it's in the best interest of all parties involved that an investigation be completed.

Third, we cannot ignore the fact that the Treasurer is the only city-wide elected official who resides in a high crime area in the 11<sup>th</sup> district. No other city-wide elected official resides in the 11<sup>th</sup> district and faces the dangers that threaten the Treasurer's safety as she commutes to and from community events, pension fund board meetings, and other engagements late in the evening and on weekends. The risk to the Treasurer's life and safety must be evaluated differently due to the high crime rate in the 11<sup>th</sup> district.

Finally, as I expressed several times during our meeting, I have grave concerns about the independent nature of this threat assessment. As you will recall, the Treasurer first received notice that CPD was pulling her security on August 1, 2019, even though CPD had yet to complete a threat assessment, conduct interviews, speak with the Treasurer or perform any other due diligence. Similarly, understanding that CPD is a department that reports to the Mayor's office coupled with the fact that Mayor Lightfoot made numerous statements about eliminating the Treasurer's office during her campaign<sup>1</sup>, I am not sure that CPD can perform an independent, unbiased review of the threats against the Treasurer's office when there might be perceived political pressure to revoke the Treasurer's security. Furthermore, your statements and involvement underscore the need for an independent, third party assessment because it appears that this process was designed to reach a pre-determined conclusion without the best interest of the Treasurer's safety in mind. As such, we should discuss engaging a mutually agreed upon independent, third party to do an assessment of threats against the Treasurer and the Treasurer's office.

I am certain that we can reach a resolution as we are both committed to the Treasurer's safety and ensuring that she is not harmed while carrying out her statutory duties. I look forward to continuing our dialogue about how to keep the Treasurer safe and ensuring that all threats against her and the office are properly reviewed and investigated. Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> See "Lightfoot Suggests Eliminating Clerk, Treasurer's Office", WBEZ 91.5 Radio Interview, March 28, 2019. ("There's other things that I think that we can look at to make sure that the city government makes sense. I think we have to have the serious question of whether we need a clerk's office? That organization has a separate administrative function, H.R., finance, all the things that you would set up for a totally different office, when many of the functions of the clerk's office could easily be performed and absorbed by the executive branch. Similar question regarding the treasurer's office. Do we need a separate treasurer's office when, in the executive branch, we're going to have a CFO, a controller, a budget office. We have to start asking those questions.")

Regards,



Tiffany R. Harper  
First Deputy Treasurer and Chief of Staff  
Office of the City Treasurer Melissa Conyears-Ervin



Lori E. Lightfoot  
Mayor

Department of Police · City of Chicago  
3510 S. Michigan Avenue · Chicago, Illinois 60653

Eddie T. Johnson  
Superintendent of Police

August 12, 2019

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Melissa Conyears-Ervin  
City Treasurer  
Office of the City Treasurer of Chicago  
City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 106  
Chicago, IL 60602  
[Melissa.Conyears-Ervin@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Melissa.Conyears-Ervin@cityofchicago.org)

***Re: Security Threat Assessment and Chicago Police Security Detail***

Madam Treasurer,

The Chicago Police Department has completed its security threat assessment in relation to your public position as the City Treasurer of Chicago. The assessment included a series of interviews with you, your professional advisors and staff, and your family. In its threat analysis, CPD has taken into account the nature and functions of your office, the daily duties and public interactions required of your position, along with an inventory of any actual or perceived threats provided by you and your staff. CPD has further evaluated this information against the national threat level to public officials who carry out similar functions and programs, including a jurisdictional comparison to major cities such as New York City, Los Angeles, Boston, and Miami. Based on CPD's communications, none of these jurisdictions provide full-time police security detail to their city treasurer equivalents.

At this time, CPD has determined that a full-time, sworn Chicago Police Department security detail is not warranted for the City Treasurer. Based on the information in its security threat assessment, CPD has determined that no ongoing, specific and credible threats currently exist that would require the City of Chicago to provide a full-time police presence to accompany the City Treasurer in your daily work as a public official.

This is by no means an indication that CPD takes lightly both the individual and professional threats that you and your staff have encountered during your time in office, nor does CPD wish to discourage you from securing private security detail if you feel it is necessary. CPD encourages you and your staff to continue to report any and all actual or perceived safety threats that arise both personally and professionally to the Department. Additionally, please continue to document any relevant information associated with these threats. CPD also encourages you and your staff to continue working with the assigned City Hall police detail when incidents arise at your office.

Whether at home or in the performance of your professional duties, if at any time where you feel your safety is threatened or police assistance is needed please contact the Chicago Police Department. As always, do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any issue. Thank you for your time and cooperation with this assessment.

## Fwd: Detail Letter - City Treasurer

[Riccio, Anthony J. <Anthony.Riccio@chicagopolice.org>](#)

Wed 8/14/2019 4:17 PM

Inbox

To: Melissa Conyears-Ervin <Melissa.ConyearsErvin@cityofchicago.org>;

Cc: Janashley Dejesus <Janashley.Dejesus@chicagopolice.org>; Kimberly Mattson <kimberly.mattson@chicagopolice.org>; Linda Myers <Linda.Myers@chicagopolice.org>; Boik, Robert A. <Robert.Boik@chicagopolice.org>;

0 2 attachments (506 KB)

AR Letter to Treasurer Re Security Detail - final.docx; ATT00001.htm;

Good afternoon. Based on the recent threat assessment conducted by CPD, the CPD security detail currently assigned to you will be terminated effective close of business today (Wednesday, August 14, 2019). If the short notice of this change adversely affects your current plans, we can postpone the termination of the detail until close of business on Friday, August 16, 2019. I apologize for any inconvenience. (Attachment below).

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Riccio, Anthony J." <[Anthony.Riccio@chicagopolice.org](#)>

**Date:** August 14, 2019 at 12:37:44 PM CDT

**To:** "Riccio, Anthony J." <[Anthony.Riccio@chicagopolice.org](#)>

**Subject:** Detail Letter - City Treasurer

\*\*\*\*\*

Anthony J. Riccio

First Deputy Superintendent

Chicago Police Department

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Lori E. Lightfoot  
Mayor

Department of Police · City of Chicago  
3510 S. Michigan Avenue · Chicago, Illinois 60653

Eddie T. Johnson  
Superintendent of Police

August 12, 2019

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Melissa Conyears-Ervin  
City Treasurer  
Office of the City Treasurer of Chicago  
City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 106  
Chicago, IL 60602  
[Melissa.Conyears-Ervin@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Melissa.Conyears-Ervin@cityofchicago.org)

2.716 million -chicag  
8.623 million  
4 million  
6851094  
463347

***Re: Security Threat Assessment and Chicago Police Security Detail***

Madam Treasurer,

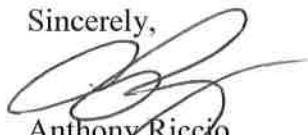
The Chicago Police Department has completed its security threat assessment in relation to your public position as the City Treasurer of Chicago. The assessment included a series of interviews with you, your professional advisors and staff, and your family. In its threat analysis, CPD has taken into account the nature and functions of your office, the daily duties and public interactions required of your position, along with an inventory of any actual or perceived threats provided by you and your staff. CPD has further evaluated this information against the national threat level to public officials who carry out similar functions and programs, including a jurisdictional comparison to major cities such as New York City, Los Angeles, Boston, and Miami. Based on CPD's communications, none of these jurisdictions provide full-time police security detail to their city treasurer equivalents.

At this time, CPD has determined that a full-time, sworn Chicago Police Department security detail is not warranted for the City Treasurer. Based on the information in its security threat assessment, CPD has determined that no ongoing, specific and credible threats currently exist that would require the City of Chicago to provide a full-time police presence to accompany the City Treasurer in your daily work as a public official.

This is by no means an indication that CPD takes lightly both the individual and professional threats that you and your staff have encountered during your time in office, nor does CPD wish to discourage you from securing private security detail if you feel it is necessary. CPD encourages you and your staff to continue to report any and all actual or perceived safety threats that arise both personally and professionally to the Department. Additionally, please continue to document any relevant information associated with these threats. CPD also encourages you and your staff to continue working with the assigned City Hall police detail when incidents arise at your office.

Whether at home or in the performance of your professional duties, if at any time where you feel your safety is threatened or police assistance is needed please contact the Chicago Police Department. As always, do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any issue. Thank you for your time and cooperation with this assessment.

Sincerely,



Anthony Riccio  
First Deputy Superintendent



OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER

MELISSA CONYEARS-ERVIN • TREASURER • CITY OF CHICAGO

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this statement to provide additional, critical facts that must be considered as the Chicago Police Department ("CPD" or the "Department) completes its assessment of threats against me and the Office of the City Treasurer (the "Office"). There are current, direct threats against me and the Office, as well as unique, pertinent facts and circumstances that require the security detail to remain in place. Removing the security detail will subject me, my Office staff and my family to unnecessary, life-threatening risks that are mitigated by the presence, expertise, and tactical skills possessed by the security detail officers. Moreover, eliminating the security detail is not only against historical practices for protecting previous City Treasurers, but such a move would expose me to unparalleled danger as the sole custodian of a portfolio over \$8 billion in taxpayer dollars.

**Direct Threats**

There have been several direct threats against me that have been avoided and/or stopped by my current security detail. I did not call the police or file a report after any of these threatening events because the security detail quickly diffused each situation and moved me to safety before the threats grew and escalated. Without the security detail's professional eye and ability to quickly divert suspicious threats, I do not know what would have happened to me or any of the family members or staff who work various community events with me.

Several specific incidents of direct threats occurred against me and/or the Office on or after May 21, 2019. A representative sample of direct threats against me and/or the Office is detailed below as follows:

1. **May 28, 2019:** I visited a business located on the 3900 block of west Madison avenue. My visit was official in nature and related to Office, but the visit was cut short due to an active police chase that included at least one person carrying a gun.
2. **May or June of 2019:** I visited a church on the west side and an unknown, strange young man began walking alongside me and asking frivolous questions. As the young man continued to get closer and closer to my physical being, the security detail rushed me to the car and pushed me inside to avoid further incident.
3. **July 24, 2019:** I attended a festival outside of Illinois and in Blue Ash, Ohio and numerous attendees recognized me, so much so that as I walked up to the door of my hotel room, an unknown, young man approached me and said, "Oh, that's where you are (in reference to the hotel room I was staying in)? You're the City Treasurer!" I felt uncomfortable and

threatened that this stranger knew who I was and where I was staying so I switched rooms and floors to avoid further incident.

4. **August 1, 2019:** I was leaving City Hall late in the evening and a woman who was seated abruptly stood up and rushed towards me. She was extremely aggressive and pulled at my body as she begged me to stay and talk to her. I was scared and felt threatened because the woman was a stranger and I did not know if she intended to harm me. The security detail surrounded me and moved me quickly into the vehicle to avoid further incident.
5. **Multiple dates:** While attending numerous community events in various neighborhoods, I've had several strangers refer to me as "the money lady" or "the lady with the billions" or ask me "to loan some of that money". All of these comments have made me extremely uncomfortable and afraid that someone might try to harm me based upon the belief that I have access to upwards of an \$8 billion-dollar portfolio and carry some of this cash with me.
6. **August 2, 2019:** A strange woman visited the Office while I was at a pension board meeting. The woman demanded to speak with me and wouldn't leave her name or other contact information. She left and came back to the Office four or five times in the span of 30 minutes. Everyone in the Office was alarmed and on high alert because the woman did not have an appointment and refused to provide her contact information or the reason for her suspicious visits.

Although I've only been in office for 79 days, the above-referenced direct threats have continued to occur and prove that I can be in harm's way at any given time. In turn, the security detail is necessary so they can continue to intervene and de-escalate threatening situations while reducing the overall risk of injury and/or death as I carry out my official duties under the Municipal Code.

### **Critical Facts**

There are also critical facts that must be considered when assessing the threats against me and my Office. First and foremost, I am a lifelong resident of the south and west sides of Chicago and I currently reside in the 11th district which has one of the highest crime rates of any area of Chicago. My church, my husband's office, my daughter's school, and my caregivers' homes are also in the 11th district where there have been several violent crimes and shootings within the past 12 months. For instance, as I was going to my pre-inaugural event, the security detail was forced to reroute because there was an active police chase a few blocks from my home at the intersection of California and I-290. Additionally, during the weekend of August 2nd, approximately 33 rounds of gun shots were fired on the 3300 block of west Monroe, just steps from my house and within walking distance to my caregivers' homes and the park I frequent with my 3-year-old daughter. While myself and my family were not impacted by the gun shots on this particular day, I do have three (3) bullet holes in the front window of my home as a constant reminder of the violence and ever-present danger that I face as the only city-wide elected official who lives in the 11th district. Attached hereto as **Exhibit A** are several newspaper articles highlighting shooting incidents that have occurred within steps of my home and other frequent locations within the last 30 days.

Second, I am the only elected official who sits as a member on all four (4) of the city's pension fund boards. In this capacity, I spend a great deal of time hearing disability cases that come before the police and fire pension fund on a monthly basis and serving in this role has already been dangerous and posed a potential threat to my safety. At the July meeting, the police pension fund heard a disability case involving an officer with a known history of mental health challenges. The entire board was concerned that this officer could have a gun and use it to harm members of the board if the decision was not in his favor. In fact, this fear was so great that one of the other trustees purposefully removed his suit jacket and brandished his guns, so they were visible to the officer during the disability hearing. This is not the last time I will have to hear and decide cases involving individuals with mental health challenges who pose a threat to my safety, and without the security detail, I could be approached and possibly harmed by any of the individuals who have cases before one of the pension boards.

Third, because this threat assessment is occurring only 79 days into my term, the experiences of the immediate past city treasurers are particularly relevant and must be considered to forecast potential threats I will likely receive in the future. It is important to note that I am the only city treasurer in recent history who ran in a highly contested election that ultimately led to a run-off. Therefore, as former city treasurer Judy Rice stated, my exposure to the public is that much greater because I was not appointed to this office like the immediate past treasurers. In turn, I have a greater need for security because this position is more visible after a long campaign and run-off election where almost \$2M dollars was spent on marketing and advertisements. More than ever, Chicago residents and other individuals who follow Chicago politics are aware of who I am, and this heightened awareness increases the risk of unknown threats against me and the Office.

Additionally, I spoke with all three of the last three city treasurers, and they all reported at least one incident of being stalked, harassed and/or threatened during their tenures. Former Treasurer Judy Rice noted that this position is in the public realm daily and it is impossible to know what people are thinking. Whether it be disgruntled voters after a highly contested election and run-off, or other residents and taxpayers, Former Treasurer Rice expressed deep concern for my safety and the safety of those who serve my Office because we are living in uncertain times where individuals with mental health issues are committing mass shootings and other crimes against elected officials. Former Stephanie Neely also shared alarming incidents where a gun was thrown into her backyard and she was confronted and attacked by a disgruntled individual whose disability hearing yielded an unfavorable outcome. Because I am the only city treasurer who has ever run for office in a contested election and run-off, the only inference that can be made is that the threats against me will be greater than what the former city treasurers experienced.

### **Public Interest**

As the sole custodian of taxpayer dollars spread across multiple investment funds and portfolios, security detail is required to protect taxpayers' interests as I perform my official duties. The Municipal Code requires me to attend and host various community events, financial literacy programs, small business expos, and access to banking initiatives across the city in all 77 of the

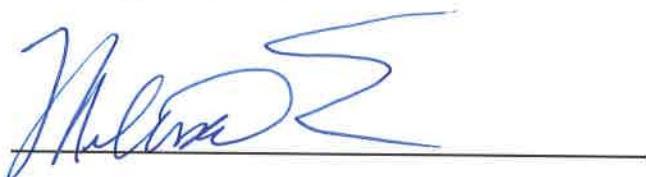
neighborhoods. The Chicago residents who I serve have a great interest in my safety so I can continue to carry-out my duties and protect taxpayer money and investments.

**Reservation of Rights**

I reserve the right to update, change or edit this statement at any point in time without prior notice. I also reserve the right to supplement this statement with additional affidavits and/or any other additional information as I deem necessary. I also reserve the right to review the final threat assessment report that is submitted as well as appeal any decision that is made based upon the final report.

Submitted by: Treasurer Melissa Conyears-Ervin

Date: August 9, 2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melissa Conyears-Ervin". It is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

# **Exhibit A**

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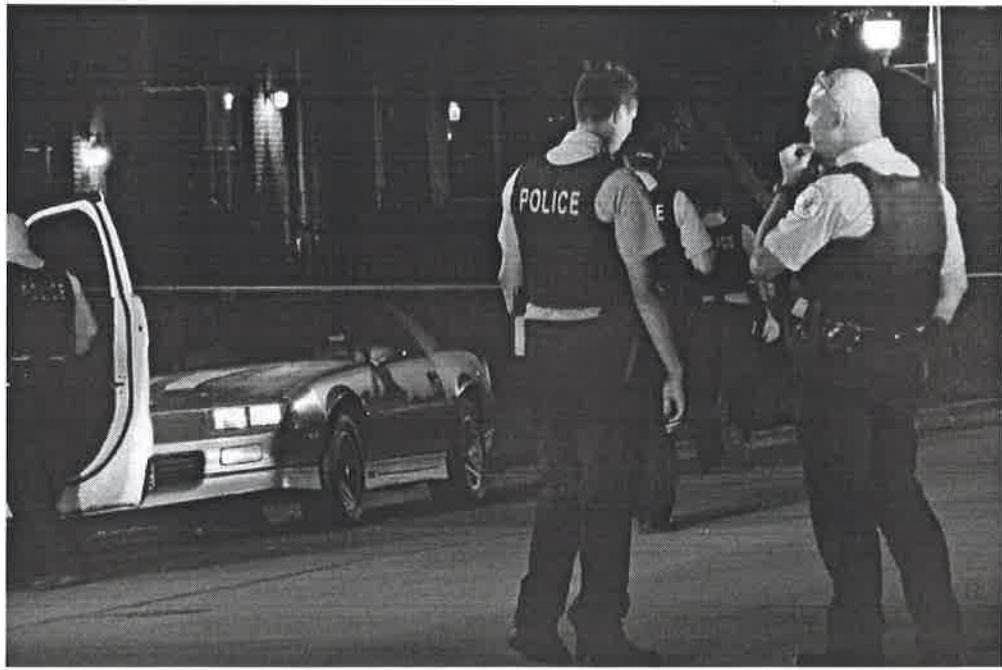
# CHICAGO SUN\*TIMES

CRIME NEWS METRO/STATE

## Woman killed, 3 others hurt on Garfield Park porch

A 28-year-old woman died in the shooting.

By Sun-Times Wire | Updated Jul 18, 2019, 10:47pm CDT



Police investigate the scene of a shooting July 18, 2019 in Garfield Park. | Justin Jackson/Sun-Times

Four people were shot, one of them fatally, Thursday while they stood on a porch in Garfield Park on the West Side.

They outside about 12:15 a.m. in the 3400 block of West Fulton Boulevard when someone emerged from a gangway and fired shots, Chicago police said.

Sharemaine Pinnicks, 28, was shot in the head and taken to Stroger Hospital, where she died four hours later, police and the Cook County medical examiner's office said.

steps  
from  
Treasurer's  
home  
and homes  
of  
daughter's  
caregivers

Two other women, 30 and 32, were taken to Stroger Hospital in serious condition, police said. The 30-year-old was shot in the chest while the 32-year-old was shot in the left arm and leg.

A 42-year-old man was struck in the hand and taken to Stroger Hospital, where his condition was stabilized, police said.

Area North detectives are conducting a homicide investigation.

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# CHICAGO SUN\*TIMES

CRIME NEWS METRO/STATE

## 3 men hurt in Garfield Park shooting

They were on a sidewalk in the 3300 block of West Monroe Street when they heard shots and felt pain.

By Sun-Times Wire | Aug 4, 2019, 6:10am CDT

L steps from Treasurer's home



Three men were hurt in a shooting in the 3300 block of West Monroe Street, Aug. 4, 2019, in Garfield Park. | Adobe File Photo

A shooting Sunday left three people wounded in Garfield Park on the West Side.

They were on a sidewalk about 4:52 a.m. in the 3300 block of West Monroe Street when they heard gunfire and felt pain, Chicago police said.

Three men, 38, 24 and 23, went to Mount Sinai Hospital with gunshot wounds, police said. The younger man was hit in the leg, the 24-year-old was struck in the ankle and the older man was hit in the leg and buttocks. All of their conditions were stabilized.

Area North detectives are investigating.

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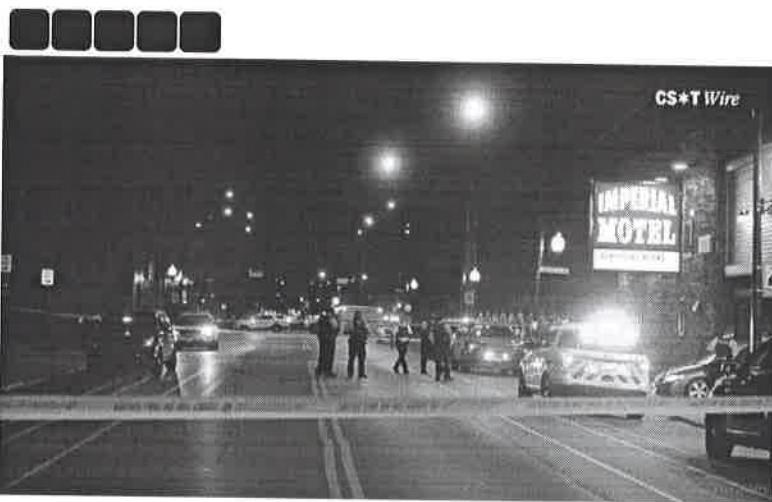




# 5 Dead, at Least 42 Wounded in Shootings Across Chicago

Two fatal shootings occurred within hours of one another Saturday morning

Published Aug 3, 2019 at 6:53 PM | Updated at 8:41 PM CDT on Aug 4, 2019



Chicago police say that five people are dead and at least 42 other individuals have been injured in shootings across the city this weekend.

In the city's most recent fatal shooting, two men were on a sidewalk in the 1900 block of West Garfield at approximately 5:46 p.m. when a man walked up to them and opened fire, according to police.

A 56-year-old man was shot in the neck, and was later pronounced dead at the University of Chicago Medical Center. Another man, a 47-year-old, was shot in the elbow and was taken to the University of Chicago, where he is in stable condition.

No suspect is in custody in the shooting.

The city's first fatal shooting occurred at approximately midnight Saturday morning in Chicago's Fernwood neighborhood, according to police.

Authorities say that a 36-year-old man was walking in the first block of West 103rd Street when he saw a large group congregating on the street. Shots were then fired, and the man was shot in the leg. He was taken to Advocate Christ Medical Center, where he was listed in stable condition.

Shortly after the shooting, an 19-year-old man was discovered in a nearby alley with a gunshot wound to his back. The man was taken to Christ Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

Just over two hours later, another fatal shooting took place in the 4600 block of West Monroe, police said. A 23-year-old man was sitting inside of a vehicle when a person nearby opened fire. The man was shot in the chest, and was pronounced dead at Stroger Hospital.

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## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

A six-month drought in Zimbabwe has left about 2 million people without sufficient food and water access. Does it seem to you that droughts and other extreme weather / climate conditions are becoming more common across the globe?

- Yes, definitely
- Maybe to some extent
- No, not necessarily
- No opinion / Other

Another person, a 28-year-old man, was standing outside of the vehicle and was also hit in the leg. He was transported to Stroger, where he is in stable condition.

There were no witnesses to the incident, and no suspect is in custody.

In another shooting in the Englewood neighborhood Saturday afternoon, a 23-year-old man was standing outside a home in the 7300 block of South Stewart Street when a person in a gray vehicle opened fire, striking him in the head and chest.

The man was pronounced dead within minutes of police arriving on scene, according to authorities.

Early Sunday morning, another fatal shooting took place in the city's Lawndale neighborhood, according to police. A total of five people were shot in the incident, which occurred in the 4200 block of West 18th Street at approximately 3:43 a.m.

One person, an unidentified man, was killed in the shooting, and seven other people were taken to area hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries.

Here are the rest of the weekend's shootings:

Friday –

- In the 1900 block of South Millard at approximately 7:18 p.m., a 19-year-old man was walking in an alley when a man pulled out a gun and shot him in the lower back, police said. The teen was taken to Mount Sinai, where he's listed in critical condition.
- A 5-year-old boy was shot during an altercation in the 6700 block of South Parnell, according to police. During the incident, a 33-year-old woman was in a hallway when she got into an altercation with a 28-year-old woman. The older woman was stabbed during the altercation, and another man, a 34-year-old man, was also stabbed. Another individual, a 29-year-old man, then pulled out a gun and began firing at the woman as she attempted to get into a car. That gunfire struck the boy, who was hit in the leg. He was taken to Comer Children's Hospital in stable condition.
- At approximately 9:48 p.m. in the 3700 block of West George, a 35-year-old man was standing in an alley when he heard gunshots. The man was taken to Illinois Masonic, where he's listed in stable condition with a gunshot wound to his left leg.
- In the 7700 block of South Chicago Avenue at approximately 11:24 p.m., a 29-year-old man was driving when a person in a red vehicle opened fire, striking the victim in the hand. The man drove himself to Trinity Hospital, where he's listed in good condition.

Saturday -

- At approximately 1:03 a.m. in the 9100 block of South Baltimore, a 21-year-old man was riding in a car when a person in another vehicle opened fire, striking him in the arm and leg, police said. The man was taken to the University of Chicago Medical Center, where he's listed in stable condition.

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- In the 2000 block of West 70<sup>th</sup> Place at approximately 1:57 a.m., a 39-year-old woman was standing outside with a group of people when a man on foot opened fire, hitting her in the leg. She was taken to Holy Cross Hospital in stable condition, according to authorities.
- Two men were shot in the 8000 block of South Stewart at approximately 3:35 a.m., according to Chicago police. ShotSpotter alerted police to the shooting, and when they arrived on scene, they discovered a 27-year-old man lying on the street, suffering multiple gunshot wounds. He was taken to an area hospital in critical condition, while a 25-year-old man, who was shot in the leg, is in stable condition. The younger man is refusing to cooperate with authorities, and no other witnesses have been located.
- At approximately 4:37 a.m. in the 6900 block of North Ashland, a 32-year-old man was riding a bike when a person in a white Ford Focus opened fire, striking him in the leg. He was taken to Saint Francis by a Good Samaritan, and was listed in stable condition, according to police.
- In the first block of South Leamington at approximately 4:47 a.m., a 23-year-old man was standing in a group of people when a person opened fire, striking him multiple times in the hip, according to police. The man was in stable condition at Stroger Hospital.
- At approximately 9:42 a.m. in the 12300 block of South Emerald, a 38-year-old man was walking when a man approached him, pulled out a gun, and opened fire, striking him in the abdomen. He was taken to Christ Hospital in critical condition, authorities said.
- A 22-year-old man was shot in the 300 block of East 132nd Place at approximately 3:11 p.m., police said. The man was standing in front of a residence when a person in a vehicle opened fire, striking him in the left foot. He was transported to Roseland Hospital in stable condition.
- A 16-year-old boy was walking around the 1400 block of S. St. Louis around 10:15 p.m., when he said he heard shots and felt pain, suffering gunshot wounds to his hand and ankle, CPD says. The victim stated he did not see the offender(s) or know where the shots came from and was transported to Mount Sinai in stable condition, police say. No is currently in custody.
- A 17-year-old boy was a passenger in a traveling vehicle when he was shot three times in the arm by an unknown offender near the 1900 block of W. 23rd St. at about 11:20 p.m., police say. The victim stated he did not know where the shots came from and did not see the offender(s). He was transported to Stroger in stable condition after his friend drove to the 1900 Block of W. 33rd St where CFD responded. Currently, no one in connection is in custody.

Sunday-

- A total of 7 individuals were at a park when shots were fired from a black Camaro in the 2900 block of W. Roosevelt at about 1:20 a.m., police said. A 21-year-old man was taken to Mt. Sinai in critical condition with a gunshot wound to his groin; a 25-year-old woman was also taken to Mt. Sinai in stable condition with a gunshot wound to her right arm and right leg; a 20-year-old was taken to Stroger Hospital in stable condition with a gunshot wound to the right side of the body; a 19-year-old was also taken to Stroger Hospital in stable condition with a wound to her right leg; another woman was taken to Mt. Sinai in stable condition; and two other victims were self-transported to nearby hospitals.
- Two individuals were standing on the street at the 1200 block of S. Troy at approximately 2:35 a.m. when shots were fired, police said. A woman self-transported to Mt. Sinai in stable condition with a gunshot wound to her left hand, and another 26-year-old woman was transported to Stroger Hospital in stable condition.

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stable condition with gunshot wounds to the buttocks and hip. No one is currently in custody.

- The victims were standing outside of a vehicle in the 5600 W. Pontomac at around 3:52 a.m., when police say two men emerged from an alley and fired several shots in their direction. The victims drove to West Sub hospital. A 21-year-old woman was in critical condition and was transferred to Stroger from west sub hospital with multiple gunshot wounds to the right arm and graze to the head. A 23-year-old man is in stable condition at west sub hospital with wounds in his left leg. And the third victim, a 22-year-old man was in stable condition at west sub hospital with wounds to his right leg. No one is currently in custody.
- A 30-year-old woman was standing on a sidewalk when shots were fired in the 4100 block of W. Adams at approximately 4:10 a.m., police said. The victim was transported to Mt. Sinai in stable condition with a gunshot wound to her back.
- A 54-year-old man was walking on the sidewalk of 3900 block of W. Congress at about 4:19 a.m., when he heard shots and felt pain, police reported. The victim was taken to Mt. Sinai in stable condition with a gunshot wound to the groin.
- Three victims were standing on the sidewalk when they heard shots and felt pain near the 3300 block of W. Monroe at approximately 4:52 a.m. A 38-year-old was self-transported to Mt. Sinai in stable condition with gunshot wounds to the right leg and buttocks; a 24-year-old man was self-transported to Mt. Sinai in stable condition with wounds to his left ankle; and a 23-year-old man was self-transported to Mt. Sinai in stable condition with gunshot wounds to his left leg.

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## **Tiffany Harper**

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**From:** Melissa Conyears-Ervin  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2019 10:17 AM  
**To:** Lori Lightfoot  
**Cc:** Maurice Classen; Tiffany Harper  
**Subject:** Meeting request - Termination of Security

Mayor,

In response to your administration's decision to remove the Treasurer's office security, I believe this is something that should be discussed between you and I, and I am requesting a meeting. I have serious concerns that are still unaddressed.

My office has requested this meeting with Maurice. I want to ensure this occurs before close of day Friday, as we have been given notice that Friday will be the termination of the security.

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## Tiffany Harper

---

**From:** Melissa Conyears-Ervin  
**Sent:** Friday, August 16, 2019 7:41 PM  
**To:** Lori Lightfoot  
**Cc:** Tiffany Harper; Maurice Classen  
**Subject:** Treasurer's Office Security

Unfortunately, my request for a meeting with you to discuss the security of the Treasurer's office was denied by your Chief of Staff. The Treasurer's office has received notice that our security detail has been terminated. Since you were unable to meet, I'd like to express my deep concerns.

There have been several direct threats against me that have been avoided and/or stopped by my security detail. I did not call the police or file a report after any of these threatening events because the security quickly diffused each situation and moved me to safety before the threats escalated. Without the security detail's professional eye and ability to quickly divert suspicious threats, I do not know what would have happened to me or any of the family members or staff who work various community events with me.

Several specific incidents of direct threats occurred against me and/or the Office on or after May 21, 2019. A representative sample of direct threats against me and/or the Office is detailed below as follows:

1. **May 28, 2019:** I visited a business located on the 3900 block of west Madison avenue. My visit was official in nature and related to official business, but the visit was cut short due to an active police chase that included at least one person carrying a gun.
2. **May or June of 2019:** I visited a church on the West Side and an unknown, strange young man began walking alongside me, then began following me before peppering me with frivolous questions. As the young man continued to get closer and closer to my physical being, the security detail rushed me to the car and pushed me inside to avoid further incident.
3. **July of 2019:** I attended a festival outside of Illinois, in Cincinnati, Ohio and numerous attendees recognized me, so much so that as I walked up to the door of my hotel room, an unknown, young man approached me and said, "Oh, you're right here? You're the City Treasurer!" I felt uncomfortable and threatened that this stranger knew who I was and where I was staying so I switched rooms and floors to avoid further incident. I left the hotel the next morning.
4. **August 1, 2019:** I was leaving City Hall late in the evening and a woman who was seated, abruptly stood up and rushed towards me in a threatening manner. She was extremely aggressive and pulled and yanked at my body as she begged me to stay. The stranger was hanging on to my body and had to be pulled away by security.
5. **Multiple dates:** While attending numerous community events in various neighborhoods, I've had several strangers refer to me as "the money lady" or "the lady with the billions" or ask me "to loan some of that money", based upon the belief that I have access to upwards of an \$8 billion-dollar portfolio.

## **Tiffany Harper**

---

**From:** Melissa Conyears-Ervin  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 22, 2019 5:58 PM  
**To:** Lori Lightfoot  
**Cc:** Tiffany Harper; Maurice Classen  
**Subject:** Response to Communication regarding Threat Assessment

Mayor,

The people of Chicago went to the polls, and with their votes, demanded change, a cleansing of the *Do As I Say Boss Politics*. They cried out for City Hall leaders with progressive ideas, a willingness to work together, a movement for change, and hearts that beat for the people. So here we are, Mayor Lightfoot.

During your inauguration speech, you congratulated Anna Valencia and I on our wins, on our victories over everything that we had to overcome to reach the historic moment we shared with you.

Now, less than three months later, your administration strips our security without a fair, thorough and transparent assessment of need. You also spoke eloquently of reinterpreting the four stars of the city's flag. You called those stars: safety, education, stability, and integrity.

### **SAFETY**

I live, parent, serve, and worship in an under-served community that has one of the highest crime rates in the city. This is my choice.

When the great citizens of our city elected me Treasurer, I knew that I instantly became the face of the city's \$8 billion dollar portfolio. I also knew that I would have to work day and night in at risk neighborhoods to help the people who want and need it the most.

One comfort I had, was the knowledge that I would have the support of Chicago's finest in the form of security. I didn't take their presence for granted, or for a perk, but rather as a promise of teamwork between the Treasurer's Office and the Chicago Police Department.

Now that promise has been broken despite overwhelming evidence of recent threats and safety concerns against the office. There have been six threatening incidents against me ranging from battery, to harassment, to stalking. The time, nature, and outcome of the incidents are documented at the end of this correspondence.

The Chicago Police Department did not express an interest in these incidents, nor did they explain in detail what their assessment process would look like or when it would begin. What we experienced were a couple of quick calls and emails, then a rush to judgment.

When it comes to safety, I am quite clear about the need for more police resources. I live on the West Side of Chicago in the 11<sup>th</sup> District, a high crime area. Although I must tell you that when we speak with the leadership of CPD, they say they have sufficient resources. If the concern is truly more resources, and I certainly can support that, wouldn't it make more sense for this to be a collaborative, shared sacrifice where everyone gives, not just the City Clerk and the City Treasurer?

There should be an independent body that conducts a thorough safety assessment of all three elected citywide offices in Chicago. This would produce a tangible document with facts and figures so a valid determination can be made. This is the type of fair and collaborative process the Treasurer's Office hoped for, and that the people of Chicago deserve and expect.

## EDUCATION

In your letter you sought to educate me about the history of patronage in Chicago by comparing this office's security, which has been in place since the 1970's, to a political cabal that worked against transparency and fairness in government.

Any comparisons to Alderman Burke are inappropriate and insulting. His situation in no way resembles this. Alderman Burke and Alderman Vrdolyak were part of the infamous 29 who exploited racial fear mongering to try to undermine and exploit the path of a progressive mayor of color.

I am an African-American woman, raised in poverty, and a first generation college graduate who lives in one of the most under-served communities in the city. I am not privileged. I am not hungry for power, I am eager to serve. My family was bursting with pride to be a part of the historic political legacy that sees eight women of color in prominent offices around Chicago. We are going to be the architects of Chicago's future, and we are role models for little girls, like your daughter and mine, who will admire what strong, purpose driven women can do.

## STABILITY

I cheered the loudest when you promised the city of Chicago financial stability and fiscal accountability. When you cut the security of two elected citywide officials, after repeated requests for the rationale, it is now suggested by your response, as a budget cut that would put more boots on the street.

But the street is not the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of City Hall. Officers removed from the Clerk and Treasurer's Offices are being reassigned to your security force. Additionally, your email was the first time I was even presented with the rationale of this being a budget concern. I inherited the 2019 budget from Kurt Summers who had security for all six years that he held office. There are no funds allocated for security in the Treasurer's 2019 budget.

## INTEGRITY

Action: Security separates man from Treasurer and secures her safety inside the police vehicle.

C. July 24, 2019

Business: Attended festival in Blue Ash, Ohio

Threat: An unknown man followed Treasurer to her hotel door, remarked that she was the Treasurer and that he knew where she was staying.

Action: Under the advisement of Security, Treasurer switched rooms at the hotel.

August 1, 2019

Business: Finishing a lengthy day at work, heading home after hours

Threat: A woman sitting across the street, jumps up, runs across the street, and aggressively pulls on Treasurer as she tries to walk away.

Action: Security blocks the woman, pushes Treasurer into police vehicle for protection. (Please note that CPD agreed that this was battery.)

E. August 2, 2019

Business: Treasurer away at meeting, staff pulling together business docs.

Threat: Staff alarmed after woman demands to see Treasurer who is away at pension board meeting.

Constant verbal badgering of staff, refused to identify herself. This woman visited the office five times within an hour, repeating this threatening behavior.

Action: Doors are locked until woman goes away— no arrest was made.

F. Multiple Dates

Business: Visits to neighborhoods for town hall meetings, church visits and economic summits.

Threat: On several occasions, strangers say "Hey you're the money lady" or "Loan me some of that money". These are references to the Treasurer's Office being responsible for an \$8 billion dollar portfolio.

Action: Security is on constant look out for people rushing up to the Treasurer, or people who shout aggressively at her from a distance.

August 16, 2019

Business: Team planning parade event for Saturday in West Side community

Threat: Strange woman sitting, and tapping, on the office window of Treasurer. The ledge is 15 feet above ground.

Action: Alarm pulled, but it DOES NOT WORK. Called City Hall police, report made.

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## Tiffany Harper

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**From:** Lori Lightfoot  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2019 3:14 PM  
**To:** Melissa Conyears-Ervin  
**Cc:** Tiffany Harper; Maurice Classen  
**Subject:** Re: Treasurer's Office Security

Madam Treasurer:

As I mentioned when we spoke briefly at the women's event last Thursday, my schedule for the balance of Thursday and Friday was jammed. I am out this week on a family vacation. I would be happy to speak with you when I return.

I assume you want to speak about the Police Department's determination that there was no threat to you, and thus no security detail was warranted. I am happy to speak with you about this topic, but to be clear, I see no basis for rejecting or overruling the CPD's findings. First, no detail should have been issued to you in the first place without a threat assessment having been done. That was a mistake which I believe First Deputy Riccio acknowledged. The cost per officer for such a detail is \$116,000 per officer, which does not include the cost of overtime, a car and maintenance. A fully functioning detail requires several officers and the cost could quickly escalate to \$500,000 annually, if not higher. Therefore, no details will be assigned to anyone without a full threat assessment and a determination that there is an imminent threat which warrants such an expenditure.

I also assume that you gave full disclosure to the officers conducting the assessment of all of the items listed in your email. That is precisely why the CPD wanted you to be interviewed, which you were, twice. Taking all of your information into consideration and other research and evaluation, the CPD made its determination.

Aside from the cost, in this time of violence, we need every officer that we can get on the streets, fighting crime.

I also feel compelled to bring to your attention your chief of staff's repeated accusation that the findings of the threat assessment were "political." Putting to one side the insulting nature of that claim, what would be "political" is if I ignored the law enforcement assessment and made a decision untethered from the facts. The last time a mayor did such a thing was for Ald. Ed Burke. I have no intention of operating like that and I would think you would not want to be in such infamous company.

I also note that the threat assessment found no other municipal Treasurer in the country had a security detail. Also, of course the threat assessment took into consideration the location of your home and that you are a public official. I note that your husband, an Alderman, has been in office for several years, travels throughout his west side ward as I can personally attest, and to my knowledge has never sought police protection.

Of course, if you believe the assessment is incorrect and you are in immediate need of a security detail, there is nothing to prevent you from using resources under your control to procure private security resources.

Also, if there is a threat to you or someone on your staff, please immediately call 911.

MLL

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot

and on high alert because the woman did not have an appointment and refused to provide her contact information or the reason for her suspicious visits.

I currently reside in the 11th district which has one of the highest crime rates of any area of Chicago. My church, my husband's office, my daughter's school, and my caregivers' homes are also in the 11th district where there have been several violent crimes and shootings within the past 12 months. For instance, as I was returning home from my pre-inaugural event, the security detail was forced to reroute because there was an active police chase a few blocks from my home at the intersection of California and I-290.

Additionally, during the weekend of August 2nd, approximately 33 rounds of gun shots were fired on the 3300 block of west Monroe, just steps from my house and within walking distance to my caregivers' homes and the park I frequent with my 3-year-old daughter. While myself and my family were not impacted by the gun shots on this particular day, I do have three (3) bullet holes in the front window of my home as a constant reminder of the violence and ever-present danger that I face as a city-wide elected official who lives in the 11th district.

I am the only elected official who sits as a Trustee on all four (4) of the city's pension fund boards. In this capacity, I spend a great deal of time hearing disability cases that come before the police and fire pension fund on a monthly basis and serving in this role has already been dangerous and posed a potential threat to my safety. At the July meeting, the police pension fund heard a disability case involving an officer with a known history of mental health challenges. The entire board was concerned that this officer could have a gun and use it to harm members of the board if the decision was not in his favor. In fact, this fear was so great that one of the other trustees purposefully removed his suit jacket and brandished his guns, so they were visible to the officer during the disability hearing. This is not the last time I will have to hear and decide cases involving individuals with mental health challenges who pose a threat to my safety.

Additionally, I spoke with the previous three City Treasurers, and they all reported incidents of being stalked, harassed and/or threatened during their tenures. I believe it would be negligent to leave this office exposed under these conditions. We urgently need to meet to discuss this matter; please provide your availability.

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## Tiffany Harper

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**From:** Lori Lightfoot  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 22, 2019 6:53 PM  
**To:** Melissa Conyears-Ervin  
**Cc:** Tiffany Harper; Maurice Classen  
**Subject:** Re: Response to Communication regarding Threat Assessment

Madam Treasurer, the assessment was thorough, fair and professional. It is very clear you don't like the results, but that doesn't change the findings which are well supported.

I understand that you are planning to spend your budget dollars to hire private security.

I am moving on.

MLL

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot

----- Original message -----

From: Melissa Conyears-Ervin <Melissa.ConyearsErvin@cityofchicago.org>  
Date: 8/22/19 6:58 PM (GMT-05:00)  
To: Lori Lightfoot <Lori.Lightfoot@cityofchicago.org>  
Cc: Tiffany Harper <Tiffany.Harper@cityofchicago.org>, Maurice Classen <Maurice.Classen@cityofchicago.org>  
Subject: Response to Communication regarding Threat Assessment

Mayor,

The people of Chicago went to the polls, and with their votes, demanded change, a cleansing of the *Do As I Say Boss Politics*. They cried out for City Hall leaders with progressive ideas, a willingness to work together, a movement for change, and hearts that beat for the people. So here we are, Mayor Lightfoot.

During your inauguration speech, you congratulated Anna Valencia and I on our wins, on our victories over everything that we had to overcome to reach the historic moment we shared with you.

Now, less than three months later, your administration strips our security without a fair, thorough and transparent assessment of need. You also spoke eloquently of reinterpreting the four stars of the city's flag. You called those stars: safety, education, stability, and integrity.

**SAFETY**

In your email, you mentioned a cursory comparison to City Treasurers or Comptrollers of other major cities, stating that they did not have security. Chicago is unique in its own right, from the diverse population, to the weather, to the high crime rate. So, it is an uneven, misleading comparison to equate the Chicago Treasurer's Office's security needs to that of say New York, Los Angeles, Boston or Miami. The cities of Boston, Los Angeles, and Miami do not have an elected City Treasurer. As an elected official, my mandate comes from the people and it is my duty to visit any and every Chicago neighborhood to ensure that the resources and financial services are fair and equitable. The city of New York has the elected office of Comptroller and the duties are not to grow and protect the taxpayers' money, nor to sit on pension boards making decisions that affect the financial livelihood of annuitants and beneficiaries. Those duties are part of my charge as the City Treasurer of Chicago and potentially expose me to threats. You suggest that I respond to these threats by calling 911. As the sole custodian of city taxpayers' money, with an \$8 billion portfolio, I find your suggestion insulting.

Also, in your email, you noted that my husband, Alderman Ervin, serves without security. First, my husband has experience in law enforcement. But furthermore, aldermen generally know the people of their respective wards. Neither you nor I know the wards or the city like the aldermen. I am the sole custodian of Chicago taxpayers' dollars. When people see me, they see the bank of Chicago. There hasn't been a single public event where citizens haven't asked me for a loan or asked me to write them a check.

When it comes to safety, I am quite clear about the need for more police resources. I live on the West Side of Chicago in the 11<sup>th</sup> District, a high crime area. Although I must tell you that when we speak with the leadership of CPD, they say they have sufficient resources. If the concern is truly more resources, and I certainly can support that, wouldn't it make more sense for this to be a collaborative, shared sacrifice where everyone gives, not just the City Clerk and the City Treasurer?

There should be an independent body that conducts a thorough safety assessment of all three elected citywide offices in Chicago. This would produce a tangible document with facts and figures so a valid determination can be made. This is the type of fair and collaborative process the Treasurer's Office hoped for, and that the people of Chicago deserve and expect.

## EDUCATION

In your letter you sought to educate me about the history of patronage in Chicago by comparing this office's security, which has been in place since the 1970's, to a political cabal that worked against transparency and fairness in government.

Any comparisons to Alderman Burke are inappropriate and insulting. His situation in no way resembles this. Alderman Burke and Alderman Vrdolyak were part of the infamous 29 who exploited racial fear mongering to try to undermine and exploit the path of a progressive mayor of color.

I am an African-American woman, raised in poverty, and a first generation college graduate who lives in one of the most under-served communities in the city. I am not privileged. I am not hungry for power, I am eager to serve. My family was bursting with pride to be a part of the historic political legacy that sees eight women of color in prominent offices around Chicago. We are going to be the architects of Chicago's future, and we are role models for little girls, like your daughter and mine, who will admire what strong, purpose driven women can do.

## **Timeline of Direct Threats: less than 90 days in office**

### **A. May 28, 2019**

Business: Visiting store at 3900 W. Madison

Threat: Active police chase for man with a gun

Action: Security cuts meeting short, secures Treasurer's safety, leaves

### **B. June 2019**

Business: Visiting church in high crime area to assess economic needs

Threat: An unknown man began peppering Treasurer with wild accusations, and invading her personal space.

Action: Security separates man from Treasurer and secures her safety inside the police vehicle.

### **C. July 24, 2019**

Business: Attended festival in Blue Ash, Ohio

Threat: An unknown man followed Treasurer to her hotel door, remarked that she was the Treasurer and that he knew where she was staying.

Action: Under the advisement of Security, Treasurer switched rooms at the hotel.

### **August 1, 2019**

Business: Finishing a lengthy day at work, heading home after hours

Threat: A woman sitting across the street, jumps up, runs across the street, and aggressively pulls on Treasurer as she tries to walk away.

Action: Security blocks the woman, pushes Treasurer into police vehicle for protection. (Please note that CPD agreed that this was battery.)

### **E. August 2, 2019**

Business: Treasurer away at meeting, staff pulling together business docs.

Threat: Staff alarmed after woman demands to see Treasurer who is away at pension board meeting.

Constant verbal badgering of staff, refused to identify herself. This woman visited the office five times within an hour, repeating this threatening behavior.

Action: Doors are locked until woman goes away— no arrest was made.

### **F. Multiple Dates**

Business: Visits to neighborhoods for town hall meetings, church visits and economic summits.

Threat: On several occasions, strangers say "Hey you're the money lady" or "Loan me some of that money". These are references to the Treasurer's Office being responsible for an \$8 billion dollar portfolio.

Action: Security is on constant look out for people rushing up to the Treasurer, or people who shout aggressively at her from a distance.

### **August 16, 2019**

Business: Team planning parade event for Saturday in West Side community

Threat: Strange woman sitting, and tapping, on the office window of Treasurer. The ledge is 15 feet above